



## **Croydon Schools' Dance Association – 2010/2011 Report**

**There are sixty-one groups affiliated to CSDA this year. The membership currently comprises one special school, fourteen high schools, two junior schools, thirty-three primary schools, eight infant schools, one freelance dance teacher, Blue Sky youth dance company, and a salsa dance group with students from several schools.**

**Of these, fifty-four groups took part in the annual performances at the Fairfield Hall on 23 and 24 March 2011. CSDA once more included a matinee performance in order to accommodate all the groups wishing to perform. Community groups of older citizens were invited to attend the matinee and the special ticket rates for schools meant that whole schools were also able to come and watch the performance. Alex Clarke escorted the Mayor of Croydon, Avril Slipper, who was guest of honour at the Wednesday evening performance. Peter Westlake was the guest of honour at the matinee, and he escorted Robin Windsor (from BBC TV's *Strictly Come Dancing* – Patsy Kensit's partner in the last series), who was guest of honour at the Thursday evening performance. Robin Windsor subsequently posted the following comment on his Facebook page:**

***'Croydon Schools' Dance Association concert was amazing. Kids of all ages loving dance. Very inspirational!! Shame my notes written on my hand wore off from clapping. . . My speech was very improv!!!! Lol lol!'***

**The lists of schools dancing at each performance follow at the end of this report.**

**The performances were entitled *Moving Objects*. Each school chose their own prop/s as inspiration for a dance in a style of their choosing set to music without lyrics. Over 1,000 Croydon students (ranging from 5 to 18 years) performed to packed houses. There was one all male group dancing and several schools sent more than one group to dance.**

**High school students were again given a chance to showcase their own choreography in a performance, *Choreographics 7*, held for the first time in the studio theatre of Shirley High School on 20 January 2011. CSDA made a decision to downsize the event this year in order to conserve finances. Previous *Choreographics* have been held in the Fairfield Concert Hall and the Ashcroft Theatre, but the cost of these venues has unfortunately spiraled prohibitively. However, the smaller and more intimate event was successful, with parents and friends coming to watch students from the BRIT School and Shirley High School, plus Blue Sky Dance Company and Cloud 9 Thunder (dance groups affiliated to CSDA comprising students from several Croydon schools). Additionally a senior workshop piece was performed (see paragraph below) which included students from the BRIT School, Old Palace School, Shirley and Woodcote High Schools and Blue Sky Dance Company.**

**Following from the success of previous years' Senior Dance Workshops for students in years 9 to 11, three twilight workshops were held in January at the BRIT School to create a dance for performance in *Choreographics 7*. The dance was choreographed by Vix Kerley, Shirley High School teacher, and Andrea Davis, BRIT School Director of Dance.**

**Dance workshops for boys were held in November and April at the BRIT School in order to raise the profile of boys' dance. BRIT male students taught contemporary and street dance to boys from years 5 to 8 in after-school workshops. At the end of each session, the boys performed the dances they had learned to their family and teachers.**

**A Day of Dance for students in years 5-8 who performed in the Fairfield Hall concert was held in May at St Andrew's High School. After warming up in a large group, the dancers split into groups, each with a different**

teacher, to produce a dance. At the end of the day, all the dances were combined into a performance for teachers, family and friends.

Thanks to an ex-Woodcote High Student, Mel Strong, CSDA received charity funding from Waitrose's token scheme. It was decided to use this to fund a morning of dance in June at Old Palace School, Croydon for students in years 1 and 2. CheckOut Dance is the first dance event specifically for infant children ever held by CSDA.

Every Country's Dancing, a multicultural dance festival, will be held at Parish Church Junior School in July. Junior age children have the opportunity to learn Chinese and salsa dances. The afternoon concludes with a picnic and a showing to parents and friends of the dances learned.

Last year CSDA secured funding from Croydon Voluntary Action to run, for the first time, its own summer school – Dance Slam – during the school holidays. This was so successful that CSDA has decided to fund the event this year. Schools are asked to nominate gifted and talented students from year 5 upwards to attend the week long course which will be held at Shirley High School. Students will have three classes a day in a wide variety of dance styles including contact, salsa, zumba, contemporary, hip hop, break, jazz, African and Chinese dance and take part in a performance project led by Jane Coulston (director of Beyond Repair Dance Company) which they will show to parents and friends at the end of the week. There will be a charge for the week and this has permitted CSDA to engage high profile teachers from outside the Borough. There will also be twilight dance classes for adults in African, hip hop, zumba and Chinese dance, plus a performance project.

CSDA continues to sponsor Blue Sky Dance Company – a youth dance company with members aged from 10 to 14 years. As well as performing in CSDA events this year, the company performed in London and south eastern youth dance events. The director is Gemma Coldicott, a community dance worker, who also directs Cloud9Thunder (C9T) youth dance company (for dancers aged from 13 to 19 years) and runs CSDA endorsed jazz and creative dance classes for adults in South Croydon.

The one continuing problem that CSDA faces is how to get more schools (other than those associated with the committee) to attend events or send students to events. Hopefully, our website ([csdance.org.uk](http://csdance.org.uk)) with downloadable documents will help to alleviate this.

The CSDA Resource Centre is still officially housed at Ashburton Library. Teachers from CSDA affiliated schools, once they are members of Croydon libraries, are able to borrow CDs, DVDs, videos and books to aid with dance teaching to both primary and secondary students. The Centre seems to have been little used. Unfortunately, many of the items bought by CSDA are currently missing; therefore we still have to find out what has happened to these before we can promote the Centre or add to it.

CSDA has a group on Facebook with an increasing membership and CSDA will again this year produce a glossy leaflet detailing of all the year's events and achievements which will be sent to all Croydon schools.

### **CSDA Committee 2010-2011**

**Chairman:** Barbara Richardson

**Vice Chairman and Secretary:** Mary Cox

**Treasurer:** Janet Brett

**Media Editor/Resource Centre:** Vix Kerley

**Director of Choreographics/Boys' Dance Workshops:** Andrea Davis

**Members:** Kristin Heaton, Catherine Ripley-Wales and Rachel Smith

**Blue Sky Dance Company/community dance (co-opted):** Gemma Coldicott

**The following 21 groups participated in this year's CSDA performance, *Moving Objects*, at the Fairfield Halls during the evening of 23 March 2011:**

**Salsa Naturally  
St Joseph's RC Infant School  
David Livingstone Primary School  
Kingsley Primary School  
St James the Great Infant School  
Elmwood Junior School  
West Thornton Primary School  
St James the Great Junior School  
Selsdon Primary School  
Woodcote High School  
Priory School  
St Mary's RC Infant School  
Wattenden Primary School  
Virgo Fidells RC Convent Senior School  
Blue Sky Dance Company  
Roke Primary School  
Atwood Primary School (two groups)  
St Mary's RC Junior School  
The Hayes Primary School  
Keston Primary School**

**These 10 schools performed in the matinee at the Fairfield Halls on 24 March 2011:**

**Parish Church Infant School  
Purley Oaks Primary School  
Beaumont Primary School  
St Aidan's RC Primary School (two groups)  
Wolsey Infant School  
The Hayes Primary School  
St Mark's CofE Primary School  
Beulah Nursery & Infant School  
Woodside Children's Centre & Infant School**

**These 23 groups performed during the evening of 24 March 2011:**

**Orchard Way Primary School  
Broadmead Primary School (two groups)  
Smitham Primary School  
St Andrew's CE High School  
Parish Church Junior School  
Benson Primary  
St Chad's RC Primary School  
Monk's Orchard Primary School  
Shirley High School  
Good Shepherd RC Primary and Nursery School  
Margaret Roper RC Primary School  
Ridgeway Primary School (two groups)  
St Joseph's RC Junior School (girls)  
BRIT School (two year 11 groups)  
Old Palace of John Whitgift School  
Winterbourne Junior Girls' School  
Old Palace of John Whitgift School  
Gresham Primary School  
St Joseph's RC Junior School (boys)  
Woodcote Primary School**